

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 0627Z 162130Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6803

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SHOOTING OF STUDENT PRECIPITATES DEMONSTRATION

1. A UNIVERSITY STUDENT WAS FATALLY SHOT FRIDAY NIGHT BY THE CIVIL GUARD IN THE SOUTHERN RESORT TOWN OF ALMERIA, WHEN THE VICTIM AND THREE OTHERS FLED FROM TWO POLICEMEN WHO REPORTEDLY SUPRISED THEM IN THE ACT OF PAINTING POLITICAL SIGNS. THE FUNERAL, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY AND WAS ATTENDED BY A REPORTED 2000 PEOPLE, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A POLITICAL PROTEST, AS THE CASKET WAS TRANSPORTED THROUGH THE STREETS TO THE CEMETERY ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MADRID 0627Z 162130Z

SHOULDERS OF DEMONSTRATORS. THEY REPORTEDLY DISPERSED

PEACEFULLY AFTER POLICE BARRED THEIR ENTRY INTO THE CEMENTERY ITSELF.

2. THE CONTROVERSY ENGENDERED BY THE SHOOTING WILL CONTINUE. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF THE CIVIL GUARD, THE SHOOTING RESULTED WHEN ONE OF THE PURSUING POLICEMEN TRIPPED, ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGING HIS PISTOL. HOWEVER, THE EXAMINING PHYSICIAN REPORTS THAT THE FATAL SHOT WAS FIRED FROM IN FRONT, AND AN ALLEGED WITNESS--REPORTEDLY ONE OF THE VICTIM'S COMPANIONS--HAS TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE FATAL SHOT WAS FIRED FROM THE DARKNESS BY A POLICEMAN TOWARD WHOM THE VICTIM WAS RUNNING.

3. ORGANIZATIONS CALLING THEMSELVES THE "JOVEN GUARDIA ROJA" (YOUNG RED GUARD) AND "ASOCIACION DEMOCRATICA DE LA JUVENTUD" (YOUNG PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATION), BOTH LINKED TO THE FAR-LEFT PARTIDO DEL TRABAJO (WORKERS PARTY), HAVE PUBLICLY CLAIMED THE VICTIM, WHO WAS THE SON OF A FORMER MAYOR OF ALMERIA, AS ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS. THE HEADQUARTERS OF "JOVEN GUARDIA ROJA" ALOS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS INITIATING COURT ACTION IN THIS CASE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER ISOLATED CASE OF OVERREACTION BY A NERVOUS POLICEMAN--WHO MAY HAVE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING ATTACKED--THIS SHOOTING POINTS UP THE CONTINUING PROBLEM THE GOVT IS HAVING IN CONDITIONING ITS PUBLIC ORDER FORCES TO THE NEW POLITICAL REALITY IN SPAIN.
STABLER

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